

Three Rivers Community College, Fall, 2008
Abnormal Psychology, Psych K245, DL
Professor: Dov Kugelmass, M.A.
dkugelmass@trcc.commnet.edu
(860) 892-5791
Office: #26, Faculty Suite, Shop Wing
Office Hours: Monday 2-3 and 6:30-7:30 pm and Fridays 11-12
pm and by appointment.
Teaching Assistant: Janet Rubin
abnormaljanet@live.com
Individual tutoring available online and on ground by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: “This course offers an introduction to psychopathology and psychotherapy. A study of emotional disturbance includes: neuroses and personality disorders, psychoses, psychodiagnosis, and psychotherapy with an emphasis on how disorders begin and various treatments that are used. Topics in the course are: the nature of neurosis, anxiety reactions, obsessive-compulsive reactions, depressive reactions, hysteria and psycho-physiological reactions, personality disturbance, sexual deviance, addictions, theories of psychosis, forms of psychosis, somatic therapies, psychoanalytic therapies, behavior therapy, client-centered therapy, and group therapies.” From course descriptions, Three Rivers Community College, Online Catalog. Retrieved 1/04

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course, students should:

- Have a basic knowledge of diagnosis, varieties of psychopathology, their development, and treatment.
- Be able to conceptualize the term “abnormal psychology” in a sophisticated manner including being able to evaluate psychological theories and disorders from multiple perspectives.
- Improve writing, critical thinking, and research skills.
- Demonstrate sensitivity and respect for individuals who have a mental illness (or symptoms of a mental illness).

REQUIRED TEXT:

- Comer, R.J. (2007). Abnormal Psychology (6th ed.).
New York: Worth Publishers.
-Articles as assigned in class.

Learning Resources:

- Study Guide may be helpful:
- Web Site: www.worthpublishers.com/comer
- Tutoring: TASC hours generally coincide with the LRC hours, but may vary each semester. You can contact the TASC by telephone at: Mohegan campus 892-5745 or by email at: mpeloquin@trcc.commnet.edu.
- Writing Center: TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu 892-5773 or 892-5769
- Library Services: Rob Walsh is our reference librarian.
- IT (Three Rivers) HELP DESK: (860) 885-2334

Webct HELP DESK: Web: <http://support.ctdlc.org> Email: support@ctdlc.org : 1-866-462-8352 (1-866-GO CTDL) Mon-Thurs: 8AM-10PM EST, Fri: 8AM-8PM EST, Sat: 8AM-5PM EST, Sun: 10AM-8PM EST

ASSIGNMENTS:

-Reading assignments (see attached schedule) should be completed as the semester progresses. It is important to complete reading on time so that we can have active discussions. There is a lot of reading and it is important to keep up. *If you're having trouble keeping up, or understanding the material, please speak to/contact me right away.*

-Discussions: There will be (one or two) weekly discussion questions. These questions can be answered on the discussion board in Blackboard, or answered in optional onground class meetings. More information on optional meetings will be discussed the first week of classes. Discussions, whether answered in Blackboard or in person during onground meetings should be thoughtful, informed, and scholarly. This includes proper referencing/source citing in APA format/style. Plagiarism will not be tolerated-see student conduct for details. Remember that discussions close with the topic areas, so leave yourself plenty of time to complete.

-Essays: There will be Three essays (diagnostic related) to be submitted as an "assignment". These will be more formal and will be graded separately from discussions.

-Quizzes: There will be three quizzes. Quizzes will consist of Blackboard-based multiple choice questions with perhaps some short answer/essay questions. Quizzes are closed book/note and must be completed without assistance from anyone. Makeup quizzes will be given only with immediate notification of emergencies.

-Final Exam: There will be an on-ground, in-person cumulative final exam. If you cannot attend the in-class final, you must make alternative arrangements to take a proctored exam either at the TRCC tutoring center or another regionally accredited college or university. Valid picture ID may be required at the Final Exam. If you plan to take the final exam at another college, please notify and begin making arrangements by the 8th week of classes

-Class participation: Please realize that even though this is a distance learning class, it is still a "class." **This is NOT an independent study or a correspondence class.** As such, you need to participate regularly. There are no required times to participate (e.g. scheduled "chats"). However, it is your responsibility to maintain a "presence" by actively participating in discussions, taking quizzes, checking Blackboard Vista regularly for announcements and communications, etc. I suggest planning to participate three times weekly (or more).

-Late Work: In the instance of emergencies and (some) unavoidable obstacles late work will be allowed. If an extension is needed, please contact me as soon as possible. Also, **late work will likely not be graded until the end of the semester** (or even after the end of the semester during intersession). Please contact me individually by phone or Blackboard Vista email if you need to discuss.

-Extra Credit: There will be two opportunities for extra credit in the first half of the semester. More on this in class if anyone is interested.

GRADING:

Discussions: 30%

Essays: 30%

Quizzes: 10%
Final exam: 30%
Total: 100%

Numeric Equivalents:

94-100 = A
90-93 = A-
87-89 = B+
83-86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+
73-76 = C
70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+
64-66 = D
60-63 = D-
0-59 = F

STUDENT CONDUCT: All students are expected to behave as responsible and mature adults. This means participating in class discussions in a respectful, prepared, and thoughtful manner. Students will be encouraged to express opinions and beliefs in class. It is important that critical discussions and feedback are conducted in a considerate and scholarly manner. Citing the work of others that is not properly credited is plagiarism. This is unethical and illegal and will result in referral to proper school authorities and/or a flunking grade for the assignment and/or course. We will discuss these issues in more detail at the start of the semester. If you have questions about what it means to be considerate and scholarly please be sure to ask questions and clear this up. It is essential that we talk and write about individuals with mental illness as people for whom we have respect. This is true because the tone of these activities influences (or even determines) the reality of the experience of mental illness.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you have any special needs related to the class (e.g. physical or learning challenges), please contact me at the start of the semester. Also, if any difficulties arise that may interfere with your full participation (such as not understanding course material, missed class, etc.), please contact me as soon as possible.

CLASS CANCELLATION: I do not foresee any events that would cause us to “cancel or suspend” class. However, in the event that Blackboard Vista is down for an extended period of time (days), Class will be conducted via email, if it is possible.

REGISTRATION and WITHDRAWAL: It is the responsibility of each student to manage their registration status. If you do not complete the course you must formally withdraw by 12/15/08 or you will likely receive an “F” final grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change):

WEEK #1(starts 9/2): Abnormal Psychology in Context: **INTRODUCTION to ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR:** overview, ground rules, definitions, methodology.

- Reading for this week; Chapter 1.
- Discussions: Introductions; what is abnormality?

WEEK #2 (Starts 9/8): PERSPECTIVES/MODELS of ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

- Reading for this week; Chapter 3
- Discussions: Argue for three models of abnormality

WEEKS #3 and #4 (starts 9/15): ASSESSMENT and RESEARCH in ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY. Assessment, diagnosis, and treatment:

- Reading for these weeks Chapters 2 and 4
- Discussions; Benefit and harm of diagnosing and To Be Announced (TBA)

WEEKS #5:and #6 (Starts 9/29) ANXIETY and MOOD DISORDERS

- Reading for these weeks; Chapter 5, 6, 8, and 9
- Discussions:TBA
- Essay: #1 OCD (movie As Good As It Gets) due 10/6
- Quiz : #1 (chapters 1-6) due before 10/12

WEEKS #7 & #8 (Starts 10/13) PERSONALITY DISORDERS

- Reading for this week; Chapters 16
- Essay: #2 due 10/26 Borderline Personality Disorder and Anti-social Personality Disorder (Movie: Girl Interrupted)
- Discussion: TBA

WEEKS #9 & 10 (Starts 10/27): SUBSTANCE RELATED DISORDERS

- Reading for this week; Chapter 12.
- Discussion: TBA
- Quiz #2 (Chapters TBA)

WEEKS #11, 12, and 13 (starts 11/10): Major Mental Disorders: Schizophrenia, Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Dementia and Delirium

- Diagnostic Essay #3: Schizophrenia (movie: Pi), Dementia (movie: The Notebook) or Autism Spectrum Disorders (movie Rainman or Mozart and the Whale) due by 11/24
- Reading for this week; Chapter 14 & 15 , pgs 542-553, and 515-522.
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- Discussions: TBA

WEEK #14 (Starts 12/1) Developmental Psychopathology DISORDERS of CHILDHOOD and ADOLESCENCE;

- Reading for this week; Chapter 17 + 18
- Discussion: TBA

Week #15 (Starts 12/8) Student Choice: Other mental disorders OR special contextual considerations (e.g. law, ?, Etc)

- Reading for this week; TBA
- Discussion: TBA
- Quiz #3 due by 12/15 (Chapters TBA)

Weeks #16 &17 (starts 12/15) Abnormal Psychology in context (reconsidered)
-Discussions; TBA
-FINAL EXAM

SYLLABUS/SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.